No. 8-2006 MONTHLY PACIFIC ENSO DISCUSSION FOR MICRONESIA AND AMERICAN SAMOA

The Pacific ENSO Applications Center (PEAC) disseminated the third quarter 2006 newsletter (refer to http://lumahai.soest.hawaii.edu/Enso/index.html). The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) stated the following in its August 2006 *ENSO Diagnostic Discussion* (refer to http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov): "Equatorial surface and subsurface temperature anomalies increased during July 2006, with SST anomalies greater than +0.5C observed in most of the equatorial Pacific between 130ºand 140ºW. CPC further observed that low level winds over the tropical Pacific were weaker than average during July and that the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) was negative for the third consecutive month. These changes coupled with the observed build up in upper ocean heat content along the equator have led the CPC to conclude that: "ENSO-neutral conditions are expected to continue for the next one to three months, with a 50% chance that weak El Niño conditions will develop by the end of 2006." Recent hurricane activity in the central Pacific and 20-knot westerly wind at Tarawa tend to support this assessment.

Most of the latest climate forecast models predict ENSO-neutral to weak El Niño conditions in the tropical Pacific through the end of 2006 and into early 2007.

Tropical cyclone development seems to have returned to normal, but the development of weak El Niño conditions could extend development farther east, increasing the threat for the Marshall Islands and the eastern Caroline Islands. The current tropical cyclone season is over for American Samoa, but weak El Niño conditions could increase the tropical cyclone risk for those islands during the next rainy season. Rainfall has returned to normal over all areas of Micronesia except the extreme northeastern Marshall Islands. Rainfall in American Samoa should remain near normal for the next two months, but the rainy season could begin early. We will closely monitor oceanic and atmospheric parameters for possible weak El Niño development.

PREPARED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
Coordinated with the Climate Prediction Center and the Pacific ENSO Applications Center.